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Attachment to Z-12936/82

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NPIC/IEG (10/82)

25 OCTOBER 1982

**PROBABLE WEAPONS TEST AREA
TAECHON MILITARY AREA, NORTH KOREA**

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1. (SWN) **SIGNIFICANCE:** A PROBABLE WEAPONS TEST AREA IS NEWLY IDENTIFIED NEAR TAECHON MILITARY AREA.

2. (SWN) **REMARKS:** THE IDENTIFICATION OF AN M-1978 SELF-PROPELLED (SP) GUN AT A RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED FACILITY 1.2 KM NORTHWEST OF THE TAECHON MILITARY AREA ON IMAGERY OF [REDACTED] INDICATES THAT THE MILITARY AREA MAY BE INVOLVED IN WEAPONS TESTING. THE PROBABLE TEST FACILITY, WHICH WAS IN AN EARLY STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION [REDACTED] 1980, CONSISTS OF A SINGLE WEAPONS POSITION BETWEEN TWO PROBABLE INSTRUMENTATION SHEDS. A CLEARED AND LEVELED AREA EXTENDS APPROXIMATELY 120 METERS FORWARD OF THE WEAPONS POSITION TOWARD A RIDGELINE. NO ADDITIONAL INSTRUMENTATION STATIONS WERE OBSERVED FORWARD OF THE WEAPONS POSITION, AND NO APPARENT TARGETS WERE OBSERVED ON OR NEAR THE RIDGELINE. ADDITIONALLY, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE M-1978 SP GUN HAS BEEN SEEN IN THE 8TH CORPS.

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(SWN) **ANALYST'S COMMENTS:** ALTHOUGH SMALL NUMBERS OF TOWED ARTILLERY AND PROBABLE TANKS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED AT THE TAECHON MILITARY AREA OVER THE LAST NINE YEARS, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANY TYPE OF WEAPONS TEST, CALIBRATION, OR FIRING FUNCTION HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSTALLATION. THE M-1978 SP GUN MAY BE FROM ONE OF THE TWO KNOWN M-1978 BATTALIONS IN THE 2ND CORPS, AND IS PROBABLY NOT PART OF A NEW UNIT DEPLOYMENT. ONE M-1978 SP GUN HAS BEEN ABSENT FROM TOJON-NI BARRACKS AND SP ARTILLERY BATTALION [REDACTED] SINCE AT LEAST EARLY MAY 1982. WHEN THE BATTALION'S WEAPONS STORAGE SHEDS WERE RAZED. [REDACTED]

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3. (S) [REDACTED] COORDINATES 39-54-20N 125-36-07E

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Intelligence Sources
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